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S. ANTONI, Editor and Proprietor. JOSEPH P. LITZNER, Jr., Secy.
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VAGRANCY AND CHARITY.

RECORDS of the relief associations of the city show that during the six months ending with March over 18,000 homeless men applied for relief. This was an increase of upward of fifty per cent. over the applications during the corresponding period of last year. Moreover, the increase has been continuous for many years past, so that the evil cannot be deemed a mere temporary disturbance of social and industrial conditions.

It is to be born in mind that there is in this country a consistent and never fully satisfied demand for labor nearly all the year round. The demand is so great that thousands of people come annually from all quarters of the globe in search of employment and find it. Some of these immigrants are a very low grade of people. They cannot speak the language. They have no trade. They are subject to all sorts of barbarisms and superstitions. But they wish work and they find it. Why, then, should there be so many homeless Americans, so many vagrants?

May it not be that an indiscriminate charity breeds more beggars than it cures?

OUR FIFTEEN THOUSAND.

CHICAGO complains that somebody has cut down the number of citizens eligible to certain dances to one hundred. New York has a happier destiny. The high dignitaries that have arranged for the opening ceremonies of the new public library admit five hundred to the feast of reason and the flow of soul that will begin the day, and thereafter will admit fifteen thousand more to walk around and see the building.

This programme that classifies our "who's who" into five hundred Favored Few and Fifteen Thousand Prominent Citizens gives us a larger array of the upper class than any other city in the world. It certainly makes the petty One Hundred of Chicago look very small and village like.

It is to be noted, however, that our Fifteen Thousand are not to be granted the freedom of the library nor trusted with any large liberty. The programme announces that they will be admitted to the building only by card, and will then "be required to proceed two abreast along a certain colonnade which will be indicated by the police stationed at short intervals throughout the structure."

It thus appears that while the committee has some confidence in the Prominent Citizens, and a little faith in the card system, it trusts mainly in the police. In Chicago it is different.

AN AEROPLANE REPORTER.

FRENCH journalism achieves the honor of being the first to send a reporter in an aeroplane to report a bicycle race. The success of the venture excites expectation. Why may not the press in the next war have its flying machine as well as the army and take observations without asking leave of army headquarters?

The limitations of aeroplane flights and consequently of aeroplane utilities are being rapidly forced further and further back, both as to time and as to distance of operation. Naturally there comes into view an increasing variety of possibilities of usefulness in the highest sense of the word. Almost everything within the scope of aeroplane activity tends toward the continuance of peace, and toward strengthening the forces that make for peace.

But for the present there is sufficient gratification in the fact that a bicycle race has been reported across country by wireless messages from a reporter following the race in an aeroplane. And the century is young yet.

THE "LOAN SHARK" PROBLEM.

OUT of the conference to be held by the Merchants' Association on a plan recommended by the Russell Sage Foundation for the relief of employees who have fallen into the jaws of the so-called "loan sharks" there ought to come the adoption of some policy that will provide such relief promptly and as universally as is possible.

Hardly any situation in our modern life is more distressing than that of the wage earner whom sickness or other misfortune forces to the necessity of borrowing money. For exactly in proportion as his needs and his poverty are great, so will be the difficulty and the cost of getting the loan.

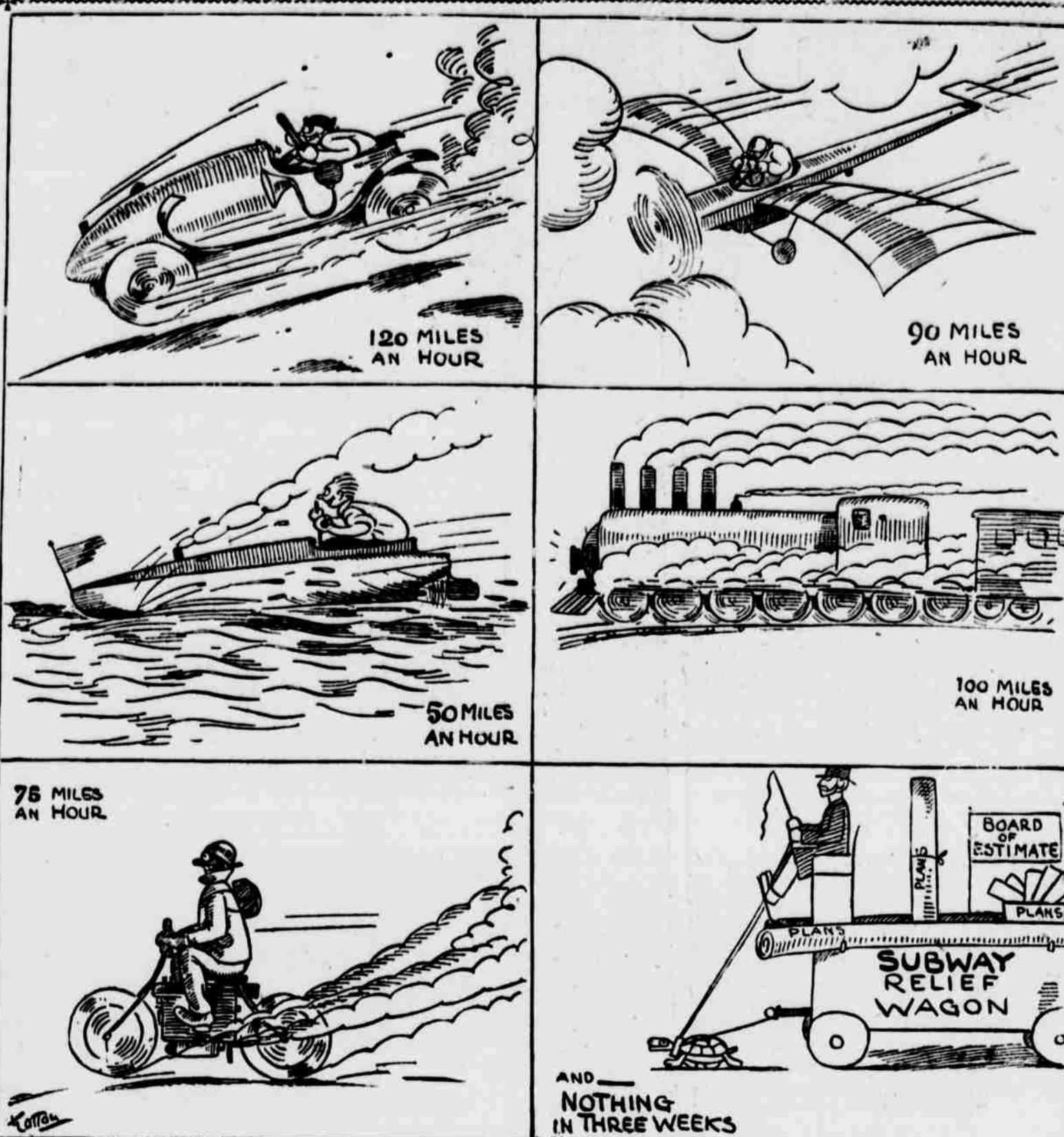
The problem in our country has never been worked out because with us it is a comparatively new one. But it is now in our larger cities as pressing as it is in the cities of the old world. It is full time to deal with it in an efficient way, and the Merchants' Association is as well fitted to solve it as any other. For it is not so much a charity as an issue of business.

Letters From the People

More About Grammar.
To the Editor of The Evening World:
A correspondent wants to know why it is that in some current literature she sees the phrase "Louie's Experience" as the title of a story, whereas she was taught it should be "Louie's Experience." Present custom, I think, favors the following uses of the apostrophe in possessives: (1) Before an added "s" for singular nouns, as in (a) "The dog's bone," (b) "James's book," (c) "The child's name." (2) After the noun for plural nouns not ending in "s," as in (d) "men's shirts," (e) "children's shoes." (3) Without an added "s" for singular nouns ending in a sibilant, where the repeated sibilant would be disagreeable to the ear or eye (as often in long words or those containing more than one "s"), as in (f) "Gladys's name," (g) "the woman's story," (h) "the man's hat," (i) "the child's toy," (j) "the dog's bone," (k) "the child's name," (l) "the man's hat," (m) "the child's toy," (n) "the dog's bone," (o) "the child's name," (p) "the man's hat," (q) "the child's toy," (r) "the dog's bone," (s) "the child's name," (t) "the man's hat," (u) "the child's toy," (v) "the dog's bone," (w) "the child's name," (x) "the man's hat," (y) "the child's toy," (z) "the dog's bone," (aa) "the child's name," (ab) "the man's hat," (ac) "the child's toy," (ad) "the dog's bone," (ae) "the child's name," (af) "the man's hat," (ag) "the child's toy," (ah) "the dog's bone," (ai) "the child's name," (aj) "the man's hat," (ak) "the child's toy," (al) "the dog's bone," (am) "the child's name," (an) "the man's 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Speed Madness.

By Maurice Ketten.



Mr. Jarr Learns That Friendships and Frenzied Finance Make a Bad Blend

By Roy L. McCardell.



"HERE he is now, boys!" said Gus, the popular proprietor of the cafe on the corner, as Mr. Jarrett, "Now as him," Muller, the grocer; Schmitt, the delicatessen dealer; Slavinsky, the glazier, and Bepier, the butcher, were gathered around a large dictionary on the end of the bar.

"Where is your friend, that Mr. Dinkston?" asked Muller, with a suspiciously sweet air. "I guess you mean Dinkston," replied Mr. Jarr. "I don't know where he is and he's no friend of mine."

"Oh, ain't he?" asked Gus, in a sarcastic tone. "We thought as how, maybe, you was in business with him."

"Let me show you. Let's look up Totemism!" "Out it out!" cried the group in chorus. "We never want to hear that one again!" "But I want to find out if he has insulted me about my wife," said Gus. "I don't allow anybody to insult my wife when she ain't around. And when she is around she won't allow anybody to do it."

"Dinkston, had as he is (and I haven't any use for him, either), didn't insult your wife," said Mr. Jarr. "Oh, I don't know about that," said Gus, with a cunning look. "There's lots of words that could be said we wouldn't understand that would be insults. Let us see! What was that word he called about me marrying my Lena because she was German?"

"Ergamy?" asked Mr. Jarr. "Yes, that's it. Find it!" cried the rest.

"Here it is," said Mr. Jarr. "Ergamy: The law of certain peoples forbidding any member thereof to marry within his own tribe, clan or family!" "Oh, that's all right," said Gus. "I can't see any insult in that!" But Mr. Jarr was thinking. "I'm afraid Dinkston put one over on us," he said. "He wasn't so infallible as he thought he was. He mixed Ergamy up with Eudogamy."

"I don't care," said Gus. "I see now that it wasn't an insult. But go ahead and tell us what that other one is." "Eudogamy," read Mr. Jarr, "the custom of some uncivilized tribes of marrying only within the tribe or clan." "Oh, I see," said Gus. "Why, he ain't a bad feller at all, that Dinkston, or whatever his name is. He didn't want to insult me at all." "But he lost his bet," said Mr. Jarr. "He did not!" said Gus, rallying, through the spirit of contrariness, to the defense of the absent champion of involved diction.

"We only bet on that first word 'Totemism,' which I don't want to hear mentioned. We let this other word out. So you see, when he found I had married my Lena, who is from Dusseldorf, he don't want to hurt my feelings by saying I am the other thing and being to the uncivilized tribes." "I don't hold no spite, either," said Bepier, the butcher, "but I want to know if that law is passed yet that you can't carry a pistol and shoot people? I read in the Staats-Zeitung that Big Tim Sullivan is got such a law."

"The Sullivan measure against the indiscriminate sale of fire arms has not yet been passed," said Mr. Jarr. "Well, then, I got to hurry up and shoot him!" said Bepier. "When is he coming around?"

"What you want to go make trouble in my place for?" asked Gus, in alarm. "The feller ain't so bad." But Bepier was suddenly angry. "You fellows may be suckers and put up with it," he said, "but I been thinking it over. We each bet him a dollar, didn't we?"

"How much did he bet?" asked Bepier. "Six dollars, a dollar, too," said Slavinsky. "When if we had won the bet we would have got a dollar. But he wins the bet and gets a dollar from each of us."

"That's so," said Mr. Jarr, "and he borrowed his single dollar from me, and he went away in such a hurry he didn't even pay it back!" "Oh, well!" said Gus, philosophically. "What we care? A man who has an education like that needs more money as we do. My brother Meyer sends his boy to college and makes a loafer of him, too. All I ask is that feller Dinkston keep out of my place. He talks so much nobody thinks to buy anything, and he ain't one for what he drinks."

"Janitor (tumbling)—You bet! (exit). Mr. B. (jubilation)—Well, I guess I look like some celebration, all right!"

Nixola Greeley-Smith's Little Talks to Women

- 1—"Mrs." as a Spinster's Title?
- 2—Teachers' "Unpaid" Work.
- 3—Must Beards Mar American Men?

NOTWITHSTANDING the venerable and self-evident saying that it is impossible to eat one's cake and have it too, a number of women in Germany are conducting an agitation to establish the right of spinster to be called "Frau." Just like their married sisters, instead of "Fraulein," as the present custom entails.

Certain unmarried women in New York in advocating the German project have expressed a similar desire to be called "Mrs." "Miss," they declare, is only suitable for girls under twenty-one.

They assert also that there is a certain protection in the word "Mrs.," particularly to women travelling alone. Men, married and unmarried, they say, are known by the one title of "Mr.," and why differentiate in the case of women?

I suppose the best reason for differentiating is that a difference exists, and "Miss" offers a protection to the unmarried woman quite equal, although different, to that which "Mrs." affords to the married.

Have the dissatisfied spinsters reflected that the change they advocate must certainly diminish their chances of acquiring the coveted prefix in the customary way?

"Who is that stunning girl?" one young man will ask another at the summer hotel in the good days coming.

"I don't know her, but the head waiter calls her Mrs. Brown," may be the reply.

And discouraged by the presumption that she is married, the unknown admirer will not scramble around for an introduction; though, all the time, the unattached and actual "Miss" Brown may be following the new fashion "made in Germany."

Be's discouraging the eligible, Miss Brown's little masquerade must at most certainly attract the ineligible and send detached. As "Mrs. Brown" with no visible husband, attentions minus intentions would prove embarrassing.

As things are now, the prefix "Miss" is an advertisement of marriageability to the young man seeking a wife and a warning signal to the philanderer seeking a flirtation.

Incidentally the privileges and immunities of married women are to-day few enough. And I am sure they will understand that the best way to preserve their distinguishing title from the all conquering and marauding spinster is to convince her it won't do her any good, and she should let justice follow at the heels of expediency in the good old way.

YOU make my girl mind from 9 till 3. Please make her mind from 3 till 9," wrote a foreign mother to a teacher in the public schools.

Poor teacher! Having accomplished the impossible task of controlling a wayward child for six hours her reward is the offer of the job for the other children!

I doubt if any of us realize how many American children are practically brought up by the public school teachers, who for so many hours have all the cares of a delegated maternity and none of the joys of actual motherhood.

The author of the letter I have quoted felt no shame at asking another woman to control her child. It does not seem to have occurred to her that her little girl's naughtiness is a reflection on her own lack of discipline and poise.

There may be some incorrigible children, but there are many more spoiled by exactions and indulgences that are equally unreasonable. Most children have far more intelligence than the patronizing adult is willing to admit; and the way to get results from them is by approaching their understanding; telling them the way of everything; even of the obedience exacted from them.

In the United States at least the family is or should be a republic. An autocracy based on force is as foreign to our idea as to one conception of government. And the household in which a father or mother beats a child is more barbarous than a government where torture takes the place of justice and brutality of reason.

School teachers have to be patient. They have to say the same things over and over, day after day, year after year. Even when they are not forbidden to beat children, they possess as a rule, too much intelligence to wish to enforce with muscles what their minds cannot convey.

Which is, perhaps, why so many of our teachers are excellent mothers to the children in their charge and why so many mothers ought to go to school.

A Englishman has suggested that, as a mark of respect to King George, every loyal Britisher should proceed forthwith to grow a beard. To wear a beard like the present King's would at the same time be a tribute to the late and also bearded Edward VII., says this would-be reformer.

Of course, only the American beard need care what an Englishman does to his face, but so many of our men set their fashions from London that the ultimate danger to the clean cut, clean shaven American countenance is not to be overlooked.

One thing only may we hope for in the event of such a barbarous revival, and that is the employment of landscape gardeners to lay out the impudently whiskers to the best advantage.

Women have learned the importance of dressing each side of the face, to puff the hair a trifle more on one side, or let it droop on the other, to harmonize with the varying grades of the nose, the mouth, the chin, the jaw, the cheek, while a touch of piquancy would be lent by having half a mustache on the other.